



(Photo by Spc. Ryan Stroud 3-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

The hills have eyes

Spc. Renay Forney, Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, inspects a portion of the Unmanned Aerial System's tail during her preflight check. (See story page 4)

Iraqi Police train in law and human rights

By Maj. Eric Verzola
4-25 Inf. PAO

KALSU, Iraq - The Iraqi Police Sustainment Training program on Forward Operating Base Kalsu graduated its second class as part of Babil and Karbala provinces' journey towards provincial Iraqi control March 24.

The Karbala police sent 35 officers and the Babil police sent 15. After 10 days of training in the art and science of police work, the graduates felt excited and honored to serve the people of Iraq.

"This was a good group of police-

men who were willing to learn and were very excited about getting out there and doing their job," said Lonnie Webb, a native of Homerville, Ga. and member of the Homerville Police Department who assisted with the training.

"Like all law enforcement officers, training is the keystone to professionalism and the training these Iraqi police officers during this program was effective," said Webb.

The effectiveness of the Iraqi Police is important in a province's journey to provincial Iraqi control, and the officers want their country to be secure.

"These men understand that doing

their duties may call for the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives for the safety and security of the province, and more importantly, the people of their respective provinces," said Col. Michael Garrett, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division and native of Cleveland, Ohio.

"The unique part of the training in this program is that when possible, two different provinces train together; they

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Attack company moves into Baghdad

By Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
4-1 Inf. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Company A, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, made its push into Baghdad March 16, along with the rest of the Black Lions and established its own combat outpost in a southern section of the city.

Leading from the front is nothing new for the Black Lions as the unit led the Big Red One into Cantigny, France, during World War I, and Cpl. Jon Dorsey, the radio telephone operator for Company from Strong's Prairie, Wis., said his job is meaningful to him.

"We're going out, doing something," he said. "We're going to the (neighborhoods) and doing what we need to get the job done."

With no security incidents on the convoy to the outpost or in the first few days, the company was able to set up force protection measures, sleeping areas, and chow points, essentials for any combat operation.

The future looked bright for Attack Company in the early going as residents of nearby houses took to the streets calling Soldiers "sadiq", the Arabic word for friend,



(Photo by Pfc. Nathaniel Smith 4-1 Inf. Public Affairs)

Soldiers unload equipment in front of Co. A, 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Regt., 4th BCT, 1st Inf. Div. combat outpost in southern Baghdad March 17.

and offering information on potential threats.

The area around the facility is predominantly Sunni, meaning without sectarian differences, it is relatively peaceful compared to other areas.

The outpost, located in an abandoned sports club in northwestern Rashid District, is adjacent to Iraqi National Police stations on two

sides.

When the unit showed up, there was no running water, no stable electricity, and pigeons were living inside the gymnasium.

The unit plans to upgrade the outpost to include internet connectivity, establishing consistent electricity, and hot showers, in addition to cleaning and maintaining the facility.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

thoob

**Defined:
shirt**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 79
Low: 55



Tomorrow

High: 79
Low: 55



Friday

High: 79
Low: 56

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Joseph F. Fil, Jr.
Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Scott Bleichwehl
Command Information Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
NCOIC, Print Production: Sgt. Michael Garrett
Editor: Spc. Shea Butler
Staff Writers: Sgt. Nicole Kojetin, Spc. L.B. Edgar, Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma, Pfc. Ben Gable, Pfc. William Hatton
Contributing Writers: Maj. Eric Verzola, Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp, Spc. Ryan

Stroud, Pfc. Nathaniel Smith
Contact the *Daily Charge* at VOIP 242-4093, DSN 318-847-2855 or e-mail david.j.larsen@mnd-b.army.mil.

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Baghdad in Brief

IA and coalition forces detain two suspected terrorists

MAHMUDIYAH, Iraq - Iraqi Army and coalition forces detained two suspected terrorists in Mahmudiyah, Iraq March 24.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division and the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) detained the suspected terrorists during a combat patrol.

While conducting the patrol, a local Iraqi woman signaled for the soldiers to stop, pointed to two vehicles saying they were terrorists. The soldiers immediately established an outer cordon and searched the vehicles within the area.

While searching the vehicles the four Iraqis ran. Two of those who fled were captured and detained.

The detainees were taken to an Iraqi Army compound for further questioning.

MND-B Soldiers react to car bomb attack

CAMP TAJI, Iraq - Insurgents killed the brother of a tribal leader in a suicide attack March 27 near Abu Grhaib, Iraq.

Two vehicle borne improvised explosive devices targeted a house owned by a sheik. Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment came on the scene and quelled the resulting fires, finding three bodies, an assault rifle and several unexploded hand grenades amongst the debris surrounding the bomb-ravaged sedans.

The sheik confirmed one body as that of his brother.

No U.S. Soldiers were killed or wounded in the incident.

45 IP's learn the art of selfless service

Train

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see that although they are from different provinces, they are brothers-in-arms with their fellow Iraqi security forces of this country."

"Another unique and important part of their training her was the addition of practical law, rule of law, and human rights as part of the training," said Garrett. "This is very important; it is the link between an arrest and conviction of criminals in these two provinces and everywhere that the rule of law prevails."

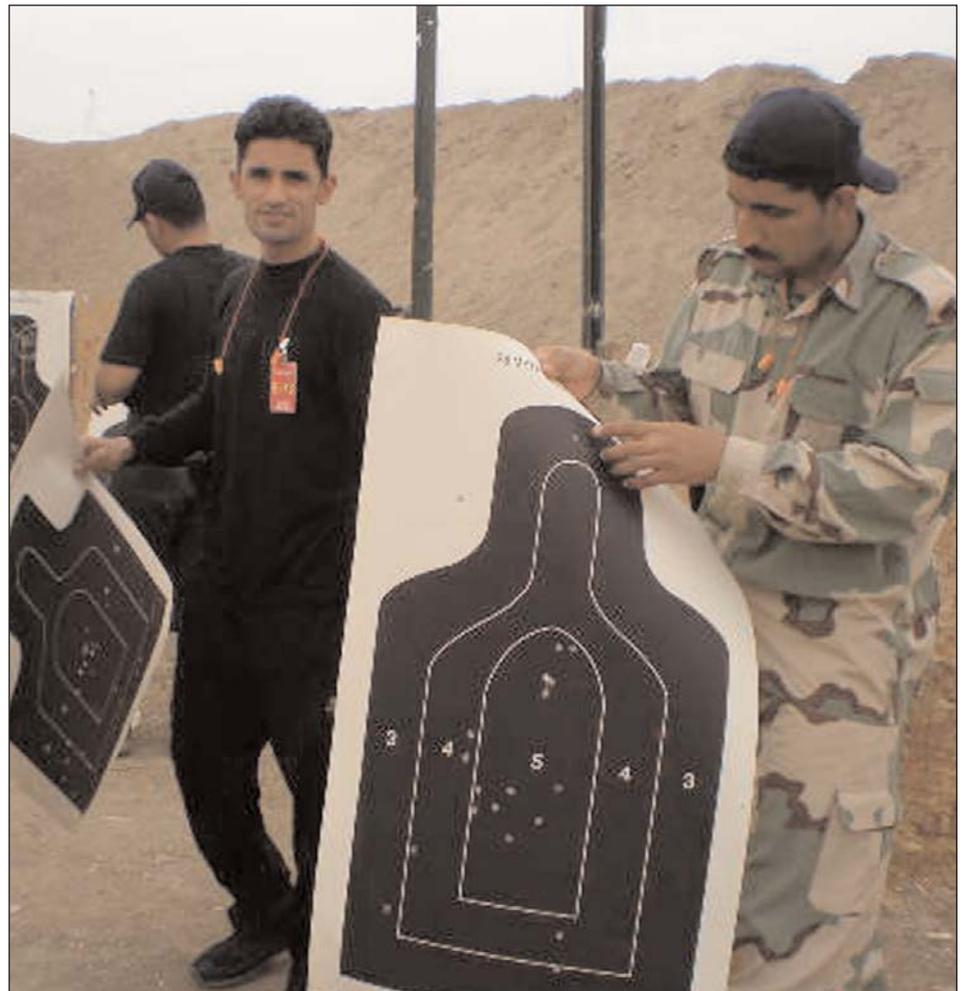
"These graduates are true sons of

Iraq and their respective provinces and the people of Iraq should be proud of their accomplishments during this program," added Garrett.

In attendance at the graduation was the deputy police chief of Babil province, Brig. Gen. Faris, who provided remarks to the graduates.

"I thank Col. Garrett for this course in which will help prepare our police to do their jobs more effectively," said Faris.

"I am proud of them, their sacrifice and their willingness to serve their province and nation," he said.



(U.S. Army photo)

Iraqi police officers from the Babil and Karbala provinces looking at the targets they fired at Forward Operating Base Kalsu during Iraqi Police Sustainment Training class 07-02 March 23. The program lasted from March 15 to 24.

UAS flies high, provides support, saves lives

By Spc. Ryan Stroud
3-1 Cav. Public Affairs

BAQUBAH, Iraq -- The skies were empty with no clouds in sight as the Unmanned Aerial Systems team from Company A, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, loaded their small plane, otherwise known as a "bird," onto a launcher to be shot into the sky.

The bird's job will be to scope out the surrounding area of Forward Operating Base Warhorse, located in Baqubah, Iraq, for surveillance purposes through the area.

The bird is a new tool the armed services have been using to help save the lives of the Soldiers supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom 06-08.

Soldiers quietly and thoroughly inspect the launcher and the bird, making sure all the pre-flight checks are complete. They then huddle on the opposite side of the runway, headphones on to protect their ears, and wait for the launch. Moments later, the bird launches with a speed up to 80 miles per hour, off the launcher and into the open sky, ready to begin its mission of surveillance.

"This job is important because [the troops] might not be able to see what's beyond a hill or what's happening ahead of them," said Spc. Renay Forney, Co. A, 3rd

BSTB, "So we give the Soldiers an idea of what's going on around them so they can get a better feeling of their surroundings and feel more comfortable [on the battle field.]"

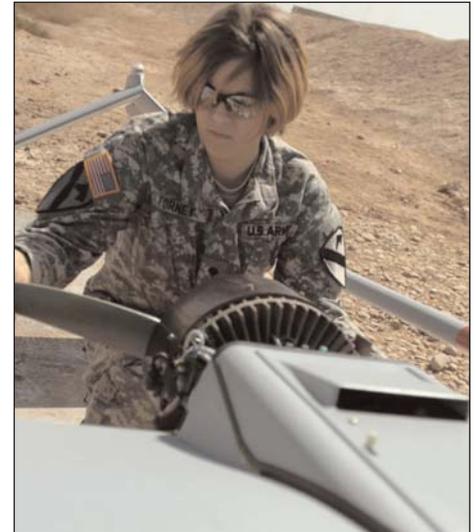
Forney is one of the UAS operators, controlling the launch and monitoring the progress of the flight until the bird reaches a higher altitude. Once the bird reaches a certain point, Forney will hand over control to the ground-control station, which will monitor the flight, control the camera and provide further information to the Soldier, she said.

"We do surveillance, reconnaissance and support missions to help the troops on the ground," Forney said. "A lot of our time is consumed by looking for insurgents."

"We also assist units by having a bird in the air and giving them a tail number," said Spc. Sean Sowles, Co. A, 3rd BSTB. "When they plug the number into their systems, they can see what we're seeing and that really helps them out. They can't control the birds but they can request us to go to an area that might help their unit with their current mission."

Sowles is one of the team's UAS repair Soldiers, maintaining the birds, launcher and conducting pre-flight checks to secure a successful launch into the sky.

After flying for a maximum suggested time, the bird will land and the team will



While inspecting the Unmanned Aerial System, Spc. Renay Forney, Co. A, 3rd BSTB, 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div., takes a quick look at the "bird's" propeller during her preflight checks before the bird takes off into the sky.

begin its routine checks and preparations for its next flight.

"I love this job," said Sowles, a native of Madison, Ala. "There's just so many capabilities this bird can do. It's amazing to work with and it's very exciting. You get used to the system and you learn new things everyday."

"I also love this," added Forney, a native of Traverse City, Mich. "You do learn something new everyday. The guys teach me about their jobs and the maintenance of the bird. This is a unique experience and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Though UAS, formally known as UAV, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, is new to the services, Forney believes it will become a major asset to units in future deployments.

"I think this field is going to continue to progress," she said. "Right now we are spending a lot of our time assisting the brigade and surrounding battalions. They have noticed the difference in their mission when the UAS is up in the air.

"They really appreciate it and ask for it," Forney added. "It's a good feeling to be needed and appreciated like that. And it feels good to get to help."



(Photos by Spc. Ryan Stroud 3-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

The Unmanned Aerial System launches into the open sky to patrol the surrounding area, looking for improvised explosive devices and other obstacles Soldiers of the 3rd BCT, 1st Cav. Div. might face.

Ironhorse NCO hopes to live up to legend of Audie Murphy

By Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp
1-1 Cav. Public Affairs

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- It has been said that there is no greater honor for a Soldier than to be compared to Audie Murphy - the most decorated Soldier in U.S. history.

Yet for many noncommissioned officers, the opportunity to live the legend through the example set by Murphy comes in being selected as a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. The organization often performs volunteer work within communities near Army installations in the U.S. and abroad, and has been designed to recognize NCOs who live up to Audie Murphy's characteristics of leadership.

For Sgt. 1st Class Michael Beyer, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment and a native of Freeport, Ill. that opportunity came when he was inducted into the club during a ceremony here March 22. Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, command sergeant major of Multi-National Corps - Iraq presented the honor to Beyer.

As Beyer's ceremony kicked off, a brief history was read that referred to Murphy as someone who displayed "the highest quality of leadership" and "who loved to lead, lived the responsibility and never wore an ego."

After presenting Byer with the Sergeant Audie Murphy medallion, Ciotola praised Beyer for his performance and said that being inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club recognizes him as an exemplary NCO who sets the example and standards of leadership-in much the same way as Murphy did.

"Whether they speak of you in garrison or they speak of you in war, people will recognize your



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Jon Cupp 1-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola, command sergeant major, MNC-I places the Sergeant Audie Murphy medallion around the neck of Sgt. 1st Class Michael Byer, with Co. C, 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt., during a ceremony inducting Byer into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club March 22 on Camp Taji, Iraq.

determination, patience and professional confidence, which are things you didn't establish here but that you established quite a while back," said Ciotola. "We ask that you pass this on."

Others praised Beyer's performance as well.

"The significance of this honor is that he has been identified as one of the elite NCOs in the Army and his leadership shows that he definitely cares for his Soldiers," said Command Sgt. Maj. Pablo Squiabro, command sergeant major, 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt. "Those who are eligible for this must be in a leadership position and must have had to supervise Soldiers for a reasonable amount of time."

"It's a prestigious club-like a professional brotherhood," added Squiabro who hails from San Antonio, Texas.

In order to enter the "elite" club, Beyer had to go through three separate boards made up of sergeant majors at the battalion, brigade and division levels. According to Beyer, each board

presented him with questions that were not so much geared toward Army knowledge as they were to the tough decision-making situations and scenarios that NCOs may encounter.

"It's very challenging and each board requires a unanimous vote from all the sergeant majors on the board," said Beyer, who spent two months studying. "It was much harder than any promotion boards I've been too and they ask tough questions about your Soldiers, training and leadership."

"I'm proud to be in it, and it gives me a chance to volunteer and represent the Army," said Beyer, explaining that although the honor is considered elite, the club is actually dedicated to helping out others by passing on good deeds in local communities that reflect selfless service. "It helps in communities with schools projects and other efforts that show an image to local communities off post just what the Army and Soldiers are really all about."

When he returns to Fort

Hood, Texas, Beyer plans on helping with the club's volunteer efforts in Killeen, Texas.

As for now, Beyer's time is spent with his Soldiers as they roll out of Camp Taji on their M1A2 Abrams tanks to go on patrols in villages such as Mushada and other areas within the 1st "Ironhorse" Brigade's area of operations here.

"Stick to the basics, do your pre-combat checks and inspections, don't be complacent and keep your situational awareness high at all times," he said, explaining that in Iraq his troops are facing an ever-changing, smart and adaptive enemy.

Yet, Beyer said he has his own ideal for what being a good NCO means.

"To me it's someone that takes care of their Soldiers, never stops training and gets Soldiers equipped and ready for war," he said.

Beyer's Soldiers said he lives up to that exact ideal.

"He really is an outstanding NCO," said Kadoka, S.D. native Sgt. Chris Bettelyoun, who serves as a gunner on an Abrams tank. "He really takes care of us and that's what is most important to him."

Although filling Audie Murphy's shoes would be tough for anyone to attempt, said Beyer, he has his own philosophy for how he hopes to at least live up to the values Murphy displayed.

"He was the epitome of a Soldier and a leader and the way I hope to live up to the values he embodied is by not failing those with whom I serve," said Beyer.

Beyer's induction marked the sixth time during the current rotation in Iraq that a 2nd Bn., 8th Cav. Regt. Soldier has been inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.